[22nd March 1960

Paper mill at Ootacamund

* 114 *Q.*—Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state whether any private party has approached the Government for aid to start a paper mill at Ootacamund and, if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, no private party has approached this Government so far for aid under the State Aid to Industries Act to start a paper mill at Ootacamund.

Sir, I wish to add that after this answer was submitted to the Council, one party has approached the Industries Department for assistance to start a paper mill.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, is it not a fact that the Minister for Industries has said more than once that the facilities which are available in Ootacamund for the location of a factory are by far the best in our State in the matter of pulp and water?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : It is true that there has been some amount of research in the utilisation of wattle bark and bluegum. But the industrialists know the best field.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : It is very good that it should be taken up in the private sector. But if the Government find that there is not much response, could they not follow the example of our sister Government—the Andhra Government—who are themselves coming forward with their own factory to meet their requirements?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : The hon. Member knows the Industrial Policy Resolution. Paper manufacture is in the private sector, and I cannot say that our State has not got enough men who can do this work in the private sector.

Sri V. V. RAMASWAMI : இந்தத் தாள் செய்கின்ற தொழிற் சாலையை அமைப்பதற்கு ஒரு தனிப்பட்ட நபர் மனுச் செய்திருக்கிறார் என்று அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். அதற்கு எஸ்டிமேட் எவ்வளவு ? அதற்கு மத்திய சர்க்காரிட மிருந்தும் பிளானிங் கமிஷனிடமிருந்தும் ஏதாவது அனுமதி வேண்டுமா ? அல்லது எல்லாவிதக் காரியங்களும் முடிந்து தொழில் நிலையத்தை ஏற்படுத்துவதற்கு எல்லாம் தயாராக இருக்கிறதா என்பதை அறிய விரும்புகிறேன் ?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : The one company which has come forward to start a paper factory not in the Nilgiris but in the Mettur-Erode area is the Seshasayee Bros. They have obtained the licence, and every formality in regard to the starting of the industry is now complete. The foreign experts are now in this country, and they are looking into the site, etc. There is another person who has come forward to start the industry by using bagasse only produced from the Amaravathi Sugar Factory, which will go into production shortly. It is in the very preliminary stage of investigation at this time.